

## **RESPONSE**

This is a response to the Office Action dated October 3, 2003. Claims 1-157 are pending in the application. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected the Specification under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Further, claims 1-157 were rejected under 5 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,415,265 (“Shell-CIP”) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,327,573 (“Walker”).

The rejections from the Office Action of October 3, 2003 are discussed below in connection with the various claims. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application and claims is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

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### **I. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph**

The Examiner rejected Applicants’ specification under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing some unclear, inexact or verbose terms. In particular, the Examiner pointed to several claims as evidencing unclear, inexact or verbose terms. With this 15 response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 4-6, 8, 9, 11-13, 16-18, 22, 23, 25-27, 29, 30, 32-34, 37-39, 42-44, 46, 47, 49-51, 54-56, 79, 81, 82, 89, 90, 94, 97, 99, 102, 106-108, 113, 114, 119-123, 125-127, 136-139, 141-143, 146-148, and 154-157 for clarity and not for reasons related to patentability. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection of the specification.

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### **II. THE SHELL REFERENCES**

Claims 1-157 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shell-CIP in view of Walker.

Shell-CIP was filed on June 30, 2000. Shell-CIP is a continuation-in-part of U.S. 25 Patent No. 6,134,533, filed Nov. 25, 1996 (“Shell-Original”). However, the earlier filed Shell-Original was not cited by the Examiner in this rejection.

The above captioned application was filed February 29, 2000, claiming priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/122,385, filed March 2, 1999, and US. 30 Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/126,493, filed March 25, 1999. The provisional applications filed on March 2 and March 25, 1999, and the parent application filed on

February 29, 2000 include the same substantive disclosure of the claimed subject matter. Shell-CIP was filed at least 16 months after the above captioned application's priority date. Accordingly, Shell-CIP is not prior art.

Applicants, therefore, will respond to the current rejections as though Shell-Original  
5 was the cited reference and that any matter present in Shell-CIP but not present in Shell-  
Original is new matter added to Shell-CIP and is therefore not prior art. For example, the  
Examiner states that Shell "discloses applicability of his system to products such as books,  
cosmetics, health supplements, cars, tickets, furniture...." *See* Office Action of October 3,  
2003, page 5, lines 25-27. However, since this disclosure is found in Shell-CIP (*See* Shell-  
10 CIP, Col. 1, lines 45-54) but not found in Shell-Original, it is not prior art. If the Examiner  
maintains his current rejections or raises new rejections based on the Shell-Original  
reference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to provide specific citations to Shell-  
Original for subject matter relied upon in such future office actions.

15 **III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

A. **Independent Claims**

Independent claims 1, 97, 106, 107, 108, 114, 120, 121, 122, 123, 127, 136, 150, 152, and 154 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shell-Original in view of Walker. With this response, claims 1, 97, 106, 107, 108, 114, 120, 121, 122, 123, 20 127, 136, and 154 have been amended for clarity and not for reasons related to patentability. Claim 151 has been cancelled. Applicants submit that claims 1, 97, 106, 107, 108, 114, 120, 121, 122, 123, 127, 136, 150, 152, and 154, as amended, are patentable over Shell-Original in view of Walker because these references, alone, or in combination, fail to disclose all of the elements of Applicants' claims.

25 Independent claim 1, as amended, relates to a "method for facilitating electronic commerce transactions in a marketing system through a network, the network comprising at least one server computer capable of communicating with a browser system located at a remote client computer...." The method includes "establishing an interactive online registration process between the client browser system and the server computer so that an 30 individual may register with the marketing system as a Client, a Member or an Independent

Business Owner (“IBO”), wherein a Client is not eligible to earn compensation and is eligible to buy products or services at a Client price, wherein a Member is not eligible to earn compensation and is eligible to buy products or services at a Member price, and wherein an IBO is eligible to buy products or services at an IBO price and is eligible to earn

5 compensation....” The method further includes “providing a plurality of web files operatively coupled to a web site associated with the marketing system; and allowing access to a plurality of marketing system products or services to the registered Client, Member, or IBO via at least one of the plurality of web files.”

Independent claim 97, as amended, relates to a “method for facilitating an on-line shopping and rewards program through a network, the network comprising at least one server computer capable of communicating with a browser system located at a remote client computer....” The method includes “establishing an interactive online registration process between the client browser system and the server computer so that an individual may register with the marketing system as a Client, a Member or an Independent Business Owner (“IBO”), wherein a Client is not eligible to earn compensation and is eligible to buy products or services at a Client price, wherein a Member is not eligible to earn compensation and is eligible to buy products or services at a Member price, and wherein an IBO is eligible to buy products or services at an IBO price and is eligible to earn compensation....” The method further includes: “maintaining a catalog comprising marketing system products or services on the server computer; maintaining a rewards database on the server computer for storing reward points corresponding to a registered Client, Member, and IBO; assigning a rewards value to the marketing system products or services and storing the rewards value in the catalog; assigning a redemption value to the marketing system products or services and storing the redemption value in the catalog; providing on-line access to the catalog to a registered Client, Member, and IBO via an on-line order form; allowing the registered Client, Member, and IBO to submit an order for marketing system products or services via the on-line order form; providing on-line access to the catalog to a registered Client, Member, and IBO via an on-line redemption form; allowing the registered Client, Member, and IBO to submit a rewards exchange request for marketing system products or services via the on-line redemption form; and subtracting from the rewards database a redemption value

corresponding to the marketing system products or services chosen by the registered Client, Member, and IBO.”

Independent claim 106, as amended, relates to a “system for facilitating an on-line shopping and rewards program, including a computer system accessible for on-line interactive communication...” The computer system includes: “a memory device having embodied therein information relating to a plurality of marketing system products or services; and a processor in communication with said memory device....” The processor is configured for “establishing an interactive online registration process so that an individual may register with the marketing system as a Client, a Member or an Independent Business Owner (“IBO”), wherein a Client is not eligible to earn compensation and is eligible to buy products or services at a Client price, wherein a Member is not eligible to earn compensation and is eligible to buy products or services at a Member price, and wherein an IBO is eligible to buy products or services at an IBO price and is eligible to earn compensation, maintaining a catalog comprising marketing system products or services, maintaining a rewards database for storing reward points corresponding to a registered Client, Member, and IBO, assigning a rewards value to the marketing system products or services and storing the rewards value in the catalog, assigning a redemption value to the marketing system products or services and storing the redemption value in the catalog, providing on-line access to the catalog to a registered Client, Member, and IBO via an on-line order form, allowing the registered Client, Member, and IBO to submit an order for marketing system products or services via the on-line order form, providing on-line access to the catalog to a registered Client, Member, and IBO via an on-line redemption form, allowing the registered Client, Member, and IBO to submit a rewards exchange request for marketing system products or services via the on-line redemption form, and subtracting from the rewards database a redemption value corresponding to the marketing system products or services chosen by the registered Client, Member, and IBO.”

Independent claim 107, as amended, relates to a “computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer program logic recorded thereon for enabling a processor in a computer system to facilitate an on-line shopping and rewards program....” The computer program includes “establishing means for enabling the processor

to establish an interactive online registration process so that an individual may register with the marketing system as a Client, a Member or an Independent Business Owner (“IBO”), wherein a Client is not eligible to earn compensation and is eligible to buy products or services at a Client price, wherein a Member is not eligible to earn compensation and is

- 5 eligible to buy products or services at a Member price, and wherein an IBO is eligible to buy products or services at an IBO price and is eligible to earn compensation....” The computer program further includes “catalog maintaining means for enabling the processor to maintain a catalog comprising marketing system products or services; rewards database maintaining means for enabling the processor to maintain a rewards database for storing reward points
- 10 corresponding to a registered Client, Member, and IBO; rewards value assigning means for enabling the processor to assign a rewards value to the marketing system products or services and storing the rewards value in the catalog; redemption value assigning means for enabling the processor to assign a redemption value to the marketing system products or services and storing the redemption value in the catalog; first providing means for enabling the processor
- 15 to provide on-line access to the catalog to a registered Client, Member, and IBO via an on-line order form; first allowing means for enabling the processor to allow the registered Client, Member, and IBO to submit an order for marketing system products or services via the on-line order form; second providing means for enabling the processor to provide on-line access to the catalog to a registered Client, Member, and IBO via an on-line redemption
- 20 form; second allowing means for enabling the processor to allow the registered Client, Member, and IBO to submit a rewards exchange request for marketing system products or services via the on-line redemption form; and subtracting means for enabling the processor to subtract from the rewards database a redemption value corresponding to the marketing system products or services chosen by the registered Client, Member, and IBO.”

- 25 Independent claim 108, as amended, relates to a “method for facilitating electronic commerce transactions in a marketing system through a network, the network comprising at least one server computer capable of communicating with a browser system located at a remote client computer....” The method includes “providing a user with on-line access to a home page file for electronic commerce transactions, wherein the user may register with the
- 30 marketing system as a Client, a Member or an Independent Business Owner (“IBO”),

wherein a Client is not eligible to earn compensation and is eligible to buy products or services at a Client price, wherein a Member is not eligible to earn compensation and is eligible to buy products or services at a Member price, and wherein an IBO is eligible to buy products or services at an IBO price and is eligible to earn compensation...” The method

5 further includes “providing a plurality of shopping page web files for buying products or services from a marketing company associated with the marketing system; and providing at least one vendor partner page web file for buying products or services from a vendor partner associated with the marketing system.”

Independent claim 114, as amended, relates to a “system for facilitating electronic commerce transactions in a marketing system....” The system includes: “a memory device having embodied therein information relating to a plurality of marketing system products or services; and a processor in communication with said memory device....” The processor is configured for “providing a user with on-line access to a home page file for electronic commerce transactions, wherein the user may register with the marketing system as a Client, 10 a Member or an Independent Business Owner (“IBO”), wherein a Client is not eligible to earn compensation and is eligible to buy products or services at a Client price, wherein a Member is not eligible to earn compensation and is eligible to buy products or services at a Member price, and wherein an IBO is eligible to buy products or services at an IBO price and is eligible to earn compensation, providing a plurality of shopping page web files for 15 buying products or services from a marketing company associated with the marketing system, and providing at least one vendor partner page web file for buying products or services from a vendor partner associated with the marketing system.”

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Independent claim 120, as amended, relates to a “computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer program logic recorded thereon for 25 enabling a processor in a computer system to facilitate electronic commerce transactions in a marketing system....” The computer program logic includes “providing means for enabling the processor to provide a user with on-line access to a home page file for electronic commerce transactions, wherein the user may register with the marketing system as a Client, a Member or an Independent Business Owner (“IBO”), wherein a Client is not eligible to 30 earn compensation and is eligible to buy products or services at a Client price, wherein a

Member is not eligible to earn compensation and is eligible to buy products or services at a Member price, and wherein an IBO is eligible to buy products or services at an IBO price and is eligible to earn compensation....” The computer program logic further includes “providing means for enabling the processor to provide a plurality of shopping page web files for buying products or services from a marketing company associated with the marketing system, and providing means for enabling the processor to provide at least one vendor partner page web file for buying products or services from a vendor partner associated with the marketing system.”

Independent claim 121, as amended, relates to a “system for facilitating electronic commerce transactions in a marketing system....” The system includes: “a memory device having embodied therein information relating to a plurality of marketing system products or services; and a processor in communication with said memory device....” The processor is configured for “establishing an interactive online registration process so that an individual may register with the marketing system as a Client, a Member or an Independent Business Owner (“IBO”), wherein a Client is not eligible to earn compensation and is eligible to buy products or services at a Client price, wherein a Member is not eligible to earn compensation and is eligible to buy products or services at a Member price, and wherein an IBO is eligible to buy products or services at an IBO price and is eligible to earn compensation, providing a plurality of web files operatively coupled to a web site associated with the marketing system, and allowing access to a plurality of marketing system products or services to the registered Client, Member, or IBO via at least one of the plurality of web files.”

Independent claim 122, as amended, relates to a “computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer program logic recorded thereon for enabling a processor in a computer system to facilitate electronic commerce transactions in a marketing system....” The computer program logic includes “establishing means for enabling the processor to establish an interactive online registration process so that an individual may register with the marketing system as a Client, a Member or an Independent Business Owner (“IBO”), wherein a Client is not eligible to earn compensation and is eligible to buy products or services at a Client price, wherein a Member is not eligible to earn compensation and is eligible to buy products or services at a Member price, and wherein an

IBO is eligible to buy products or services at an IBO price and is eligible to earn compensation....” The computer program logic further includes “providing means for enabling the processor to provide a plurality of web files operatively coupled to a web site associated with the marketing system; and allowing means for enabling the processor to allow access to a plurality of marketing system products or services to the registered Client, Member, or IBO via at least one of the plurality of web files.”

Independent claim 123, as amended, relates to a “method for facilitating electronic commerce transactions in a marketing system through a network, the network comprising at least one server computer capable of communicating with a browser system located at a remote client computer....” The method includes “establishing an interactive online registration process between the client browser system and the server computer so that an individual may register with the marketing system as a Client, a Member or an Independent Business Owner (“IBO”), wherein a Client is not eligible to earn compensation and is eligible to buy products or services at a Client price, wherein a Member is eligible to buy products or services at a Member price and is not eligible to earn compensation, and wherein each IBO is eligible to buy products or services at an IBO price and is eligible to earn compensation....” The method further includes: “providing a plurality of web files operatively coupled to a web site associated with the marketing system; and allowing access to a plurality of marketing system products or services to the registered Client, Member, or IBO via at least one of the plurality of web files.”

Independent claim 127, as amended, relates to a “method for facilitating an on-line shopping and rewards program through a network, the network comprising at least one server computer capable of communicating with a browser system located at a remote client computer....” The method includes “establishing an interactive online registration process between the client browser system and the server computer so that an individual may register with the marketing system as a Client, a Member or an Independent Business Owner (“IBO”), wherein a Client is not eligible to earn compensation and is eligible to buy products or services at Client price, wherein a Member is not eligible to earn compensation and is eligible to buy products or services at a Member price, and wherein an IBO is eligible to buy products or services at an IBO price and is eligible to earn compensation....” The method

further includes: “maintaining a catalog comprising marketing system products or services on the server computer; maintaining a rewards database on the server computer for storing reward points corresponding to a registered Member; assigning a rewards value to the marketing system products or services and storing the rewards value in the catalog; assigning

- 5 a redemption value to the marketing system products or services and storing the redemption value in the catalog; providing on-line access to the catalog to a registered Member via an on-line order form; allowing the registered Member to submit an order for marketing system products or services via the on-line order form; providing on-line access to the catalog to a registered Member via an on-line redemption form; allowing the registered Member to
- 10 submit a rewards exchange request for marketing system products or services via the on-line redemption form; and subtracting from the rewards database a redemption value corresponding to the marketing system products or services chosen by the registered Member.”

Independent claim 136, as amended, relates to a “method for accumulating a list of products or services selected for purchase from a shopping page web file and a merchant partner page web file....” The method includes: “accumulating a selected list of product or service identifiers selected for purchase at a server computer; receiving at the server computer identification of at least one of the product or service identifiers selected for purchase from at least one web file selected from the group consisting of the shopping page web file and the merchant partner page web file; and at the server computer, adding to the selected list each product or service received by said receiving step.

Independent claim 150, as amended, relates to a “method for facilitating electronic commerce transactions in a marketing system through a network, the network comprising at least one server computer capable of communicating with a browser system located at a remote client computer....” The method includes: “establishing an interactive online registration process between the client browser system and the server computer so that a first individual may register with the marketing system; providing a plurality of web files operatively coupled to a web site associated with the marketing system; allowing access to a plurality of marketing system products or services to the registered individual via at least one of the plurality of web files; and assigning a second individual who registers with the

marketing system to the first individual based on a geographic proximity of the first individual to the second individual.”

Independent claim 152 relates to a “method for granting access to a user to a first web page file....” The method includes: “determining if the user has an authentication identifier; directing the user to a marketing page web file if the user does not possess an authentication identifier; determining a participation level of the user if the user possesses an authentication identifier; granting access to the first web page file if the participation level of the user meets a predetermined access level; and directing the user to a second web page file if the participation level of the user does not meet the predetermined access level.”

Independent claim 154, as amended, relates to a “method for facilitating electronic commerce transactions in a marketing system through a network, the network comprising at least one server computer capable of communicating with a browser system located at a remote client computer....” The method includes: “establishing an interactive online registration process between the client browser and the server computer so that an individual may register with the marketing system as a Client, Member, or Independent Business Owner (“IBO”), wherein the Client is not eligible to earn compensation and is eligible to purchase products or services at a Client price, wherein the Member is not eligible to earn compensation and is eligible to purchase products or services at a Member price, and wherein the IBO is eligible to earn compensation and is eligible to purchase products or services at an IBO price....” The method further includes “providing a plurality of web files operatively coupled to a web site associated with the marketing system; and allowing access to a plurality of marketing system products or services to the registered Client, Member, or IBO via at least one of the plurality of web files.”

Shell-Original discloses a “server system for multi-level vending of any electronically transferable product through a communications network directly to a customer's computer. This server system (herein called a Sales Support Server) integrates the collection of a payment via the network and the automatic distribution of the product with the calculation of commissions using a multi-level marketing commission structure and the distribution of commissions and fees via the network. ... The usefulness of this invention includes physical product distribution through a shipping and handling system.” See Shell-Original, Abstract.

Walker discloses a method of enabling a frequent shopper reward system to be capable of tracking performance data of a plurality of members or account holders linked to a single frequent shopper account. *See Walker, Abstract.*

5           **1. Independent Claims 1, 97, 106, 107, 108, 114, 120, 121, 122, 123, 127 and 154**

Both Shell and Walker fail to disclose registering an individual with a marketing system as one of a Client, Member or Independent Business Owner where the individual so registered is eligible to buy products at a particular price and further, where the individual 10 registered as a Client or Member is ineligible to earn compensation and the individual registered as an IBO is eligible to earn compensation, as claimed in claims 1, 97, 106, 107, 108, 114, 120, 121, 122, 123, 127 and 154.

Shell-Original discloses instead a system for compensating developers and buyers of shareware software who then resell that software to others. "This invention uses the 15 monetary incentive of multi-level marketing to augment 'impression value' to promote the word-of-mouth marketing, and this invention uses direct payment and individualized installation to augment 'willingness' as a means for developers to receive payment." *See Shell-Original, Col. 1, lines 14-17.* In the system disclosed by Shell-Original, all participants, whether they are the developers or the buyers of the software, are eligible to 20 earn compensation. Shell-Original does not disclose a participation category which is eligible to buy products or services but ineligible to earn compensation.

Walker also fails to disclose this element. Walker discloses instead a system of rewarding frequent shoppers and, in particular, rewarding account holders that are related via a common frequent shopper account. *See Walker, Col. 1, line 65 – Col. 2, line 10.* Walker 25 fails to disclose multiple participation categories wherein at least one of the participation categories is ineligible to earn compensation. In fact, Walker relates to rewarding shoppers as part of an incentive program, not compensating them as part of a marketing system. Even if a reward is considered a form of compensation, Walker still fails to disclose a participation category that is eligible to buy products or services while simultaneously being ineligible to

earn such compensation. Walker discloses that all participants are eligible to earn rewards, subject the rules of the particular incentive program.

As neither Shell-Original nor Walker disclose a participation category that is ineligible to receive compensation, the combination also fails to disclose this element.

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## **2. Independent Claim 136**

Further, both Shell-Original and Walker fail to disclose accumulating a selected list of product or service identifiers for purchase at a server computer selected for purchase from a shopping page web file or merchant page web file, as claimed in claim 136.

10       Shell-Original discloses processing orders for software and automatically downloading and installing the purchased software. *See* Shell-Original, generally. Shell-Original does not disclose accumulating a list of product or service identifiers and, further, does not disclose accumulating such identifiers based on purchase selections made from a shopping page web file or merchant page web file. Shell-Original discloses only the  
15       purchase of individual software products, one at a time.

Walker fails to disclose any subject matter related to accumulating lists of product or service identifiers, as Walker is not concerned with the purchase of products or services. Walker is directed to rewards-based incentive program which rewards shoppers for the actual purchase of products or services and not the selection thereof.

20       As neither Shell-Original nor Walker disclose accumulating a selected list of product or service identifiers for purchase at a server computer, or that this list is populated based on selections from one of a shopping page web file or merchant page web file, the combination also fails to disclose these elements.

## **25       3. Independent Claim 150**

In addition, both Shell-Original and Walker fail to disclose assigning a second individual who registers with a marketing system to a first individual who is already registered with the marketing system based on a geographic proximity of the first individual to the second individual, as claimed in claim 150.

Shell-Original discloses a product based MLM system wherein the position of a new seller within the organization, i.e. commission structure, is under the existing seller who informed the new seller of a product or group of products. In a product based MLM system, therefore, a particular seller may occupy multiple positions relative to other participants

5 depending upon who introduced the seller to a given product or group of products. See Shell-Original, col. 1, lines 25-39; col. 5, lines 44-48 and 50-52; col. 7, lines 60-62; col. 9 line 66 – col. 10, line 1; and claims 1-12; also see Shell-CIP col. 3, lines 9-17 further defining the disclosure of Shell-Original.<sup>1</sup> Shell-Original fails to disclose or suggest any other method of assigning participants in a multi-level marketing system and, in particular,

10 does not disclose assigning participants based on their geographic proximity to one another.

Walker also fails to disclose this limitation. In particular, Walker fails to disclose multilevel marketing and discloses only that members or account holders are linked together by a joint account within the particular membership rewards program. Walker does not disclose how participants enroll in the disclosed rewards programs or how they join together

15 into the disclosed groups. Walker only discloses what happens once users are grouped together. See walker, Col. 11, lines 8-65.

As neither Shell-Original nor Walker disclose assigning a second individual who registers with a marketing system to a first individual who is already registered with the marketing system based on a geographic proximity of the first individual to the second

20 individual, the combination also fails to disclose these elements.

#### 4. Independent Claim 152

Further, both Shell-Original and Walker fail to disclose directing, or granting access to, a user to a particular web page file based on an authentication identifier and participation

25 level of the user, as claimed in claim 152.

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<sup>1</sup> See the file history of U.S. Pat. No. 6,415,265, Notice of Allowability, Reasons For Allowance, page 3, lines 17-20; and the file history of U.S. Pat. No. 6,408,281, Notice of Allowability, Reasons For Allowance, page 4, lines 4-7, the Examiner noting that the limitation involving “product based multilevel commissions and fees” was prosecuted extensively in the parent application, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,134,533, as being the inventive feature.

In particular, Shell-Original fails to disclose any form of authenticated access. Shell-Original discloses only that the “invention is a server ... which accepts purchase requests and payment via the network directly from the customer’s computer via the network....” *See*

Shell-Original, Col. 1, line 66 – Col. 1, line 3. Nowhere in Shell-Original is disclosed

5 Applicants’ claimed method directing users to marketing web page files if they do not possess an authentication identifier or granting access to a first web page file based on a participation level and authentication identifier, as claimed.

While Walker discloses different applicable rules for different incentive programs, Walker also fails to disclose Applicants’ claimed elements. *See* Walker, Col. 7, lines 13-39.

10 As neither Shell-Original nor Walker disclose directing, or granting access to, a user to a particular web page file based on an authentication identifier and participation level of the user, the combination also fails to disclose these elements.

For at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 97, 106, 107, 108, 114, 120, 121, 15 122, 123, 127, 136, 150, 152, and 154 are not obvious in view of the combination of Shell-Original and Walker. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection of independent claims 1, 97, 106, 107, 108, 114, 120, 121, 122, 123, 127, 136, 150, 152, and 154.

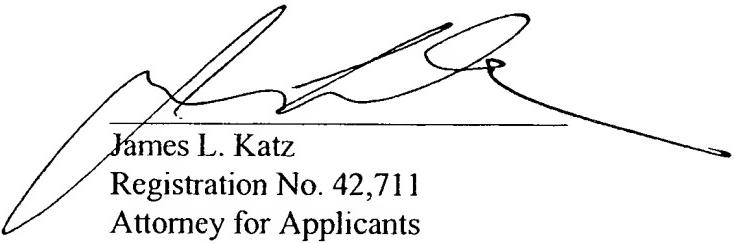
20 **B. Dependent Claims 2-96, 98-105, 109-113, 115-119, 124-126, 128-135, 137-149, 151, 153 and 155-157**

Dependent Claims 2-96, 98-105, 109-113, 115-119, 124-126, 128-135, 137-149, 151, 153 and 155-157 were also rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shell-Original in view of Walker. With this response, dependent claim 151 has been 25 canceled. Dependent claims 2-96, 98-105, 109-113, 115-119, 124-126, 128-135, 137-149, 153 and 155-157 should be allowed for the reasons set out above for the independent claims. Applicants therefore request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection of these claims. Further limitations of the dependent claims are not disclosed by either of the Shell-Original or Walker.

**CONCLUSION**

Each of the rejections in the Office Action dated October 3, 2003 has been addressed and no new matter has been added. Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are in  
5 condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if it would expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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